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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,493	05/31/2001	Mark A. Geiger	KLMK010	9598

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EXAMINER

CZEKAJ, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/871,493

Applicant(s)

GEIGER ET AL.

Examiner

Dave Czekaj

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

On page 8, applicant argues that Malec fails to disclose one or more transceiver units for sending information to the displays and being located proximate to the promoted items. While the applicant's points are understood, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Note the examiners obviousness statement below for replacing the transmitters with transceivers and further note Malec figure 4. There Malec shows the transmitters/transceivers being located proximate to the promoted items. The examiner further notes that sending promotional information is not found in the claim. What is found in the claim is sending information which Malec discloses in column 8, lines 52-65, wherein the information is the unique address. Therefore the rejection has been maintained.

On page 8, applicant argues that Malec fails to disclose a computer for operating the interaction between the display units, transceiver unites, and transmitter. While the applicant's points are understood, the examiner respectfully disagrees. See for example Malec column 8, lines 28-65. There Malec discloses the in store computer transmits information to a transceiver which in turn transmits information to the display units, thus indicating an interaction between the components. Therefore the rejection has been maintained.

On page 9, applicant argues that Malec fails to disclose a transmitter for sending information to the plurality of transceiver units. While the applicant's points are understood, the examiner respectfully disagrees. See for example Malec figure 5 and

column 8, lines 28-35. There Malec discloses sending information to the store message transceiver and SCD message transceiver. Therefore the rejection has been maintained.

On page 9, applicant argues that Malec fails to disclose an audible alert component on the display unit for signaling receipt of information from the transceiver unit. While the applicant's points are understood, the examiner respectfully disagrees. See for example Malec column 26, lines 24-27. There Malec discloses that each message received has audio to be played. The examiner notes that the audio to be played acts as signal indicating if the information has been received. If the information hasn't been received, no audio will play, however, if the information has been received, the audio will play. Therefore the rejection has been maintained.

On page 9, applicant argues that replacing the transmitters with transceivers fails to produce a working system. While the applicant's points are understood, the examiner respectfully disagrees. The examiner notes that transceivers transmit and receive information as opposed to the transmitter which only transmits information. Further, it is well known to use transceivers when using two-way communication for uses such as verification of incoming messages. Therefore the rejection has been maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16 and 18-23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malec et al. (5295064), (hereinafter referred to as "Malec").

Claim 1: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system comprising: a plurality of display units having a display screen attached to a plurality of shopping carts for displaying information; (See Malec figure 9A) a transmitter for sending information to the plurality of transceiver units; (See Malec figure 5 item 602) an audible alert component on the display unit for signaling receipt of information from the transceiver unit; (See Malec figure 10 items 1308 and 1309) and a computer for operating the interaction between the plurality of display units, the plurality of transceiver units, and the transmitter (See Malec figure 4 item 502), one or more transceiver units for sending information to the plurality of display units and being located proximate to promoted items, (See Malec figure 4 items 503, 500, 513 and 514. While items 513 and 514 are transmitters item 503 transmits information to the carts 500 when the carts enter a particular area thus achieving the same result as if the data was sent to a transceiver then relayed to a cart when the cart entered a particular area). One issue with Malec's invention is that it requires the on board display electronics to search for messages associated with a particular transmitter, thus requiring expensive on board memory for every cart See column 8 lines 52-65. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the transmitters with transceivers to make the invention as claimed. One would have been motivated to do so by a desire to eliminate the need for memory on the cart by sending

message information directly to the transceivers to then relay the information to the display on the cart.)

Claim 2: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display subsystem according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes buttons for enabling a user to select information requests and directions. (See Malec figure 9B)

Claim 3: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit automatically receives a signal for providing information. See Malec column 8 lines 52-65)

Claim 4: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver unit provides independent processing of data and independent communication with the display unit. (See Malec figure 4 item 503 as well as figure 10-item 504, note that the display is capable of independent communication with a transceiver. If the transmitter 514 were to be replaced by with a transceiver, a reasonable expectation of success would be achieved)

Claim 5: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cad display system according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver unit includes a proximity sensor that detects the presence of a shopping cart within a programmed range and initiates transmission of the trigger and data signals to the display unit. (See Malec figure 10 items 1313 and 1314)

Claim 6. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the transceiver unit includes a radio frequency receiver to receive radio frequency transmissions from the computer. (See Malec figure 5 item 602)

Claim 7: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a radio frequency receiver to receive radio frequency transmissions from a transceiver unit. (See Malec figure 10 item 1317)

Claim 8: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes an infrared receiver to receive infrared transmissions from a transceiver unit. (See Malec column 10 lines 9-14)

Claim 9: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a microwave receiver to receive microwave transmissions from a transceiver unit. (See Malec column 23 lines 45-49)

Claim 10: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes an ultrasonic receiver to receive ultrasonic transmissions from a transceiver unit. (At the time the invention was made it was well known in the art that ultrasonic transmission was interchangeable with IR or microwave transmission. Furthermore in column 10 line 12-13 Malec clearly teaches that any FCC Part 90 authorized transmission could be used. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to communicate via ultrasound motivated by the knowledge as taught by Malec that it could be used in place of IR of any other form).

Claim 11: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit includes a sensor utilizing an ultrasonic signal for determining distance between the display unit and the transceiver unit. (At the time the invention was made it was well known in the art to utilize ultrasonic signals to determine the distance between two objects. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art to use an ultrasonic signal to determine the distance motivated by a need to keep track of the whereabouts of the shopping cart.) Official notice served.

Claim 12: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 4, wherein the transceiver unit has a separate identification such that data transmitted from the computer is transmitted throughout a store but is processed and stored only by a transceiver unit to which the data is intended. (See Malec column 15 lines 19-34).

Claim 13. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising a battery charger unit for powering the display unit (See Malec figure 4 item 505).

Claim 14. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the computer, the plurality of display units, and the transmitter are linked through radio frequency transmissions. (See Malec Column 18 line 57)

Claim 15, 21: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the computer, the plurality of display units, the plurality of transceiver units, and the transmitter are linked through infrared transmissions. (See Malec column 10 lines 9-14).

Claim 16: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cad display system according to claim 1, further comprising Internet access for connecting a shopper directly to Internet content. (At the time the invention was made, connecting to the Internet was widely known and in use. While Malec system predates the Internet as it was used at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinal skill in

the art to connect the displays to the Internet. One would have been motivated to do so in an effort to either provide timely product information or allow the customer to research a product before buying it.) Official notice served.

Claim 18. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising a means for locating a shopping cart's position within a store. (See Malec column 11 lines 23-44)

Claim 19: Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising a data card reader. (See Malec lines 62-65 a smart card reader and data card reader are considered synonymous.)

Claim 20. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising a motion sensor for limiting power or turning off power to a display unit when a particular shopping cart has not been in motion for a specified time. (See Malec figure 10 item 1323 as well as column 24 lines 20-29).

Claim 22. Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit further comprises a scanner for reading product UPC labels. (See Malec column 22 lines 41-55)

Claim 23 Malec discloses an electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, wherein the display unit further comprises a battery status indicator. (See Malec Column 23 line 68 through column 24 line 10)

3. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malec et al. (5295064), (hereinafter referred to as "Malec") in view of MacIntyer.

Claim 17: An electronic shopping cart display system according to claim 1, further comprising an alarm when a shopping cart leaves a prescribed area.

(While Malec makes no mention of an alarm, MacIntyre does (see abstract of MacIntyre). At the time the invention was made it was well known in the art that shopping cart theft was a serious and costly problem (See MacIntyre column 1 lines 8-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include an alarm system that would deter theft of said shopping carts motivated by the above mentioned teaching.)

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Czekaj whose telephone number is (571) 272-7327. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DJC


VULE
PRIMARY EXAMINER